

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 049614

FROM AMBASSADOR CUTLER

FOLLOWING REPEAT ABIDJAN 1449 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BRUSSELS
KINSHASHA FEB 11.

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 1449

FROM AMBASSADOR CUTLER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CG

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MEETING WITH MOBUTU-FEB. 10

1. I MET ALONE WITH PRESIDENT MOBUTU FOR ONE
HOUR AT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY PRESIDENTIAL PALACE IN
ABIDJAN FEBRUARY 10. MOBUTU, DESPITE FATIGUE FROM
CURRENT TRIP THROUGH EUROPE AND AFRICA, WAS REASONABLY
RELAXED AND REMAINED SO EVEN THOUGH WE TOUCHED ON
SOME FAIRLY SENSITIVE SUBJECTS. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY
OF MAJOR POINTS COVERED:

2. ECONOMIC/FINANCIAL REFORM. MOBUTU SAID HE
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WOULD SOON FORMALLY ASK THE IMF TO PROVIDE A MANAGING
DIRECTOR FOR ZAIRE'S CENTRAL BANK, THEREBY GIVING
THE IMF MAJOR OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF THE BANK'S
ACTIVITIES AS OPPOSED TO A PURELY ADVISORY ROLE.
THIS DECISION HAS ALREADY BEEN CONVEYED TO THE
BELGIANS AND FRENCH, WHO HAVE AGREED TO TAKE OVER
KEY MANAGEMENT POSITIONS IN THE GOZ'S CUSTOMS AND

FINANCE DEPARTMENTS.

3. MOBUTU PLAN CONSULTATIONS. MOBUTU WAS SATISFIED WITH RECENT CONSULTATIONS WITH THE BELGIANS, FRENCH AND GERMANS, WHERE HE FOUND ENCOURAGING SUPPORT FROM BOTH GOVERNMENTS AND PRIVATE SECTORS. LATER THIS MONTH HE INTENDS TO SEND GOZ MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (UMBA) AND PLANNING (MULUMBA) TO WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS MOBUTU PLAN WITH USG AND IMF/IBRD.

4. ANGOLA. MOBUTU IS CONCERNED BY RECENT EVIDENCE OF ANGOLAN INTENTIONS TO INCREASE PRESSURES IN SHABA AND ELSEWHERE ALONG ZAIRE'S BORDERS. HOWEVER, HE ANTICIPATES STEPPED-UP GUERRILLA ACTIVITY RATHER THAN MAJOR ATTACKS. MOBUTU CLAIMS SOVIETS AND CUBANS ARE NOW PUSHING NETO TO REACH AN ACCOMMODATION WITH SAVIMBI. LATTER IS SO FAR RESISTING IDEA, AND MOBUTU INTENDS TO ENCOURAGE HIM TO COOPERATE. MOBUTU FEARS, HOWEVER, THAT ONE OF MAIN OBJECTIVES OF SOVIET/ CUBAN STRATEGY IN ANGOLA IS TO NEUTRALIZE UNITA IN ORDER TO MAKE GREATER EFFORT TO SUBVERT ZAIRE.

5. OTHER AFRICAN ISSUES. MOBUTU MADE CLEAR HIS SUPPORT FOR CHAD VIS-A-VIS LIBYAN-BACKED REBELS, BUT NEITHER INDICATED WHAT FORM IT WOULD TAKE NOR PRESSED FOR GREATER US ASSISTANCE. MOBUTU REMAINS MORE CONFIDENTIAL

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RESERVED RE THE HORN, NOTING THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF SUPPORTING SOMALIA BECAUSE OF THE ISSUE OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY EVEN THOUGH ZAIRE ABHORS THE CURRENT ETHIOPIAN REGIME.

6. HUMAN RIGHTS. I BRIEFED MOBUTU ON THE STATUS OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNTRY REPORTS, EXPRESSING MY VIEW THAT REPORT ON ZAIRE (WHICH MOBUTU INDICATED HE HAD NOT SEEN) WAS REASONABLY FAIR AND BALANCED. MOBUTU SAID HIS CONSCIENCE WAS CLEAR REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS IN ZAIRE, ALTHOUGH HE FAILED TO CONCEAL HIS IRRITATION AT THIS WAY OF DOING BUSINESS BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS.

7. THESE AND OTHER POINTS COVERED IN OUR MEETING ARE BEING REPORTED MORE FULLY IN SEPTELS.
STEARNS UNQUOTE VANCE

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